Short Circuits

Post Office Box 73
Titusville, FL 32781

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
T. A. R. C
Titusville, Florida

May, 2007

Club Officers **Club Call: K4KSC**

Pres: K4CWG 269-2796 Bud Hughes K4CWG@cfl.rr.com	V.P. AD1S 269-3621 Donald Spade dspade@cfl.rr.com	Tres: KI4CFA 632-4501 Mic Woltman mjwoltman@mindspring.com	Sec: KI4GMF 268-2107 Cathy Johnson Alncat007@netzero.com
Board, W4EPU 269-4208 Pike Abell pikeatal@digital.net	Board, K4CUO 267-8876 Bill Hoskinson bhoskinson@cfl.rr.com	Board, W4RBI 271-4500 Gary Johnson GaryJay990@aol.com	Board, W4REN 639-5157 Jan Ferguson W4ren@aol.com
146.91 Rptr, KI4CFA Mic Woltman 632-4601	146.97 Rptr, W4CEL Warren Murray 917-2737	444.15 Rptr, KI4DYJ Rob McKiness 264-8917	147.775 Rptr, KD4HNW Ken Denman, 269-5711

Club Meeting: 4th Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Titusville Public Library, 2121 S. Hopkins Ave.

"Eating Meeting" every Thursday, 5:00 – 7:00 PM
at the roving restaurant. Talk in: 146.91.

Next Club Meeting: May 22, 2007

K4CWG, Bud Hughes, Silent Key

It is with profound sadness that we commemorate the passing of Bud Hughes, K4CWG.

Bud was a Charter Member of TARC and he served TARC as President for the past 16 years.

Under his leadership the club grew into one of the largest ham clubs in the country, active in community service, emergency communications, hamfests, social events and licensing new hams. He was an ambassador for the club and for ham radio.

Bud was a ham's ham. He was an excellent high-speed CW operator. He was active on HF, VHF and Echo Link. Bud and Sherry constantly monitored the 146.91 repeater, ready to chat or answer a question. Bud was always ready to help another ham, to fix a repeater, put up an antenna, or to provide technical support. He helped organize and run Field Day operations, Fox Hunts and Christmas parades.

Bud loved amateur radio and he loved TARC. Both were an integral part of his life.

K4CWG will always be part of the history and the tradition of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club. His influence will guide us and his memory will inspire us.

Bud, we will miss your hand on the tiller. We will miss your constant support. We will miss your hearty laugh. But most of all, we will miss you, my friend.

73, Bud. Godspeed.

April Minutes by Cathy Johnson, KI4GMF

On April 24, TARC held its monthly meeting at the Titusville Public Library. The club approved the purchase of a projector for presentations at meetings. Gary Johnson W4RBI was chosen to lead field day. Field day will be held on June23&24. Finally, there was a lively discussion about whether we should put Echolink or IRLP on the 91 machine. The club voted to put Echolink on the 91 repeater.

73, Cathy, KI4GMF

Treasurer's Report

	May-07	YTD
Income		***$5,150.58***
Membership Dues	$170.00	$953.00
Other income	$33.50	$1,024.30
TOTAL INCOME		**$7,127.88**
Expenses		
Insurance		$138.37
Repeater Telephones	$80.44	$341.68
Christmas Party		$45.00
PO Box Rental		$50.00
Newsletter		$112.49
Hamfest Tables (2008)		$50.00
Florida Corp Fees	$70.00	$70.00
Club Projector	$637.49	$637.49
Echolink (hardware)	$175.00	$175.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		**$1,620.03**
TOTAL Account Balance		**$5,507.85**

Abell's Anecdotes, by Pike Abell, W4EPU

My nephew is a Council Officer at the American Embassy in Bagdad. The following is the main portion of one of his e-mail messages which I shall now share with you.

"Last week we had another group of "high level visitors". This happens pretty regularly here, and for the most part, I have little direct involvement with them. Being a consular officer is a little like being a stoker on a steam ship. You are kept below decks because you're not that presentable and you are only noticed if you stop shoveling.

"At any rate this group of visitors had been kept under such security that I wasn't even sure who they were, but on Saturday afternoon I received an e-mail that they wanted to have the entire Country Team (section heads) join them for dinner in the dining facility. I showed up on time and went to the reserved tables. People started to drift in, including a lot of VIPs that I didn't recognize, but they must have been important because some people made great effort to be introduced and sit by them. I rose and introduced myself as each person came in and then sat down.

"Well, people kept filtering in until the only two seats left were beside me. At that point Edwin Meese (Attorney General in the Reagan administration) and James Baker (Treasury Secretary under President Reagan and Secretary of State under the first President Bush) walked in and sat down with me. I believe that some people may have been envious that they chose to sit with me.

"Mr. Meese asked where I was from and I told him I was from Arkansas. Mr. Baker talked a little about quail hunting and I listened. Mr. Baker told the joke about the talking dog (in Arkansas, of course). ("You can't believe half of what that dog says.") He asked if I hear a lot of Arkansas jokes. I said, "Yes but I just tell people that all the stars on the flag are the same size." He liked that. He told a couple more jokes, prefaced with "Ronald Reagan loved this one." I told the one about the pig with the wooden leg. ("A pig that special you don't eat, not all at once, anyway.") He and Mr. Meese laughed. Basically, we had more than half an hour of low-stress dinner conversation, which, apparently was what these two gentlemen wanted.

"The best part was that, at the end of the meal, as people were getting up to leave, Mr. Baker turned his chair to face mine and gave me a three minute brief on what he had seen in Iraq and what he thought it meant. I was honored."

73s es 88s

Scarborough Reef, BS7H

Scarborough Reef is the most-wanted DX location in the world. It is basically a large rock in the South China Sea, northeast of Manila. Scarborough Reef has only been active on the air three times, the most recent in 1994. Many hams that needed only Scarborough Reef to have "worked them all" have waited for years for the chance to work BS7H.

It took three years and many thousands of dollars to get government permission to get Scarborough Reef on the air in 2007. The DXpedition's landing was postponed for days due to very rough seas impeding the progress of the ship carrying the operators and equipment.

This press release from the DXpedition, explains operating conditions:

"It is now day 3 on Scarborough with operations going for 48 hours. All 4 operating positions are built and the team has gone from survival in route, to survival while building, to survival while in QSO mode.

"Everyone on the team has cuts from the coral. The closest access to any of the rocks is over coral and no one has been spared coral scrapes and cuts. Add to that over 100 degree heat and sunburn and you have a dangerous environment for all.

"During the day each shift is 6 hours in heat and a dry wind under a small umbrella. If you are lucky enough you get to operate at night. You are left on a rock for 13 hours barely 4 feet above the water in pitch black sitting in a folding chair, no where to walk and stretch and getting a constant salt spray. You can't see the other rocks nor the ship and if something goes wrong there is no chance of rescue.

"The steppIR verticals and one Yagi are up. Two stations will stay on 20 mtrs while the other two will search 15, 17, 30 and 40 for openings. "So as you sit there in your comfy shack complaining on the cluster and sending us emails about your lack of a QSO and the do's and don'ts, think what our team is going through to bring you "the chance of a QSO".

The DXpedition made 45,000 contacts, many fewer than hoped (some DXpeditions make more than 100,000 contacts). Conditions were better toward Europe and Asia than to the USA, and many US hams were not able to work BS7H.

Short Circuits Congratulates:

Stephanie (K4MVO) and Hank (AA4HP) Phillips both worked BS7Y on CW and on phone!

Cathy Johnson, KI4GMF, for her recent upgrade to Amateur Extra Class!

TARC Flea Market

"Original owner (non-smoker) has for sale the following MINT condition items:

(1) **Ten Tec Jupiter** with internal antennae tuner (538AT) - 15 months old - $1100.
(2) **Yaesu FT847** HF/VHF/UHF Satellite/EME Earthstation with 3 optional Collins filters (2 for SSB and 1 for CW, as well as all 3 original Yaesu ceramic filters), voice option ("Jap-in-the-box"). Mobile mounting bracket (never used), factory service manual (still in plastic). Hi serial number - purchased approx 6 months prior to A.E.S. closeout sale - $1200.

All items PICK UP/TRY BEFORE YOU BUY ONLY in East Orlando...
Contact (early mornings is best) Ken Faria/NT0Y at "alrightythenken@webtv.net" or (407) 677-4022 for appointment." Ken/NT0Y.

Lost and Found

Lyle Schultz, K4TGO left his cane at last month's meeting. If you have it, please call, 321-264-2479.

For New Hams: HF Propagation

HF communication is greatly affected by solar action. During periods of low sunspot activity, propagation is generally not very good on the higher bands. As sunspot activity increases, propagation improves.

During times of low sunspot activity, propagation on 40, 80 and especially on the 160-meter band, is often very good.

Solar activity normally follows an eleven-year cycle. At the bottom of a cycle, propagation is very poor, and improves steadily for about 6 years. At the top of a cycle, hams can often work the world with just a few watts, especially on the ten-meter band. From the peak, propagation steadily declines until the bottom of the cycle is reached, approximately 11 years after its beginning.

According to information in the June issue of QST magazine, we are near or at the bottom of Cycle 23, the current cycle. The good news is that conditions should steadily improve now until sometime in 2013.

For several days this month, the solar index was zero, and the bands have been very quiet for the past few months. But by this July, the solar index is predicted to average around 25.

Even during the bottom of a cycle, band openings around the world do occur. During the past few days, 20 meters has often been open until several hours after sunset. On the 15th of this month, JA3EY, Ko, was working a pileup of US stations at 1200 UTC with a strong signal from Japan.

This is a good time to get that antenna up, set up your shack and get on the air. Then, as the bands get better, you'll be ready to work the world as openings occur!

Solar activity is only one factor that affects propagation. The ARRL Handbook provides fundamental instruction on this fascinating topic, and many other sources are available.

A basic understanding of propagation will help you know when bands are open to different parts of the world.

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 73
Titusville, FL 32781-0073

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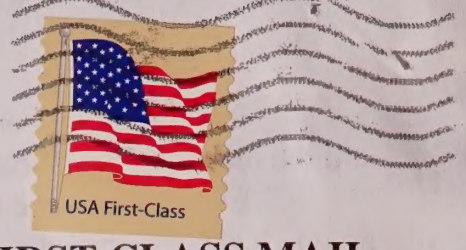
FL 327 4 T
21 MAY 2007 PM



FIRST CLASS MAIL

KU4ZO
Sherry Hughes
4835 Santa Rosa Ave.
Titusville FL 32780

780+6815

TARC Local Nets

Red Eye Net:	7.228 Mhz	- Sunday, 0600
Friendship Net:	146.91 Mhz	- Tuesday, 1830
Mosquito Net:	28.333 Mhz	- Wednesday, 1900
VIP Net:	146.91 Mhz	- Thursday, 1000

Other Local Nets

ARES/RACES	147.135 Mhz	- Wednesday, 0900
ARES/RACES	147.135 Mhz	- Wednesday, 1900 IRARC
ARES/RACES	147.135 Mhz	- Wednesday, 1915
ATV Net	146.940 Mhz	- Wednesday, 1945

TARC License Courses

W are in the process of finishing up our Spring 2007 sessions. Anyone needing help to pass any of the three course levels, Tech, General and/or extra should plan on attending the next four or five Monday evening classes as we are finishing up for the season.

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: TGO, Hobby Land – craft room
Instructors: Don Spade, AD1S and Lyle Schultz, K4TGO
For information contact: Lyle Schultz, 321-264-2479, K4TGO@cfl.rr.com

Ham Humor

Antenna Romance: Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent. Since they were a perfect match, soon they generated harmonics. Wrapped the harmonics in dipoles. But later the harmonics turned out to be parasitic elements. The true story -- she was a tri-bander and he felt trapped, so they went on separate beam headings.

Einstein on Radio: "I am often asked how radio works. Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat. You yank his tail in New York and he meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is no cat." Attributed to Albert Einstein

The Bootlegger: A bootlegger walks into a radio store and tells the salesman that he would like to buy the new HF rig over in the corner. The salesman says, "Sorry, we don't sell to bootleggers." He leaves, goes home, puts on a brown wig and sunglasses and goes back to the store and tells the salesman he wants to buy that new rig over in the corner. Sales guy says, "Sorry, we don't sell to bootleggers." Old boot asks, "How do you know I'm a bootlegger?" and the salesman replies, "Because that's not a rig, it's a microwave oven."